

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-15, 18-20, 22-25, 43-45, 48, and 50-52 are pending. Claims 1 and 43 are amended herein, and claims 61-64 are added. No new matter is added.

Support for the amendments to the claims and for the newly added claims may be found in the Specification, for example, from page 11, line 8 to page 16, line 4. In particular, discussion of verification of validity may be found in the Specification, for example, from page 12, line 20 to page 13, line 16.

Rejections Under 35 USC 112

Claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-15, 17-20, 22-25, 43-45, and 48-52 are rejected under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs. Applicants assert that the claims were enabled and definite as previously presented; however, to expedite prosecution, claims 1 and 43 have been amended herein to address the concerns raised in the Office Action and to highlight a benefit/use of the recited claims. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In particular, claims 1 and 43 have been amended to clarify the notification of usage operation and to highlight a function of the billing service. As described in the Specification, the notification of usage provided to the billing service allows the billing service to assist the user in a variety of ways, including verifying the validity of the use of the billing data (See the Specification, for example, at page 12, line 20 to page 13, line 16). As an example, verification of validity can prevent fraudulent use of billing data. Thus, the claim details the role of the billing service as the entity that obtains the billing data from the billing data issuing source, provides the billing data to a user, and receives notification of use of the billing data to facilitate verification by the billing service of validity of the use. There is a clear value and utility provided by the billing service, in particular appreciated by the user using such a service.

In such an embodiment as recited in claims 1 and 43, the billing data issuing service is only required to be the entity from which the billing service obtains the billing data, and that the billing data issuing service and the billing service are operated independently. Beyond those recitations, the perspective of the claim focuses on the operations of the billing service. Any notification that may or may not be provided to the billing data issuing source is an unnecessary feature of the claim as currently recited and as the embodiment is described in the Specification (see page 11, line 8 to page 16 for a detailed description).

Thus, Applicants assert that claims 1 and 43, and the claims dependent therefrom, are sufficiently enabled and definite, and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

New Claims

Claims 61-64 depend from either claim 1 or 43. Therefore, they are allowable for at least the same reason claims 1 and 43 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-4, 7-10, 13-15, 18-20, 22-25, 43-45, 48, 50-52, and 61-64 are in condition for allowance. Early issuance of the Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 500393.

Respectfully submitted,
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